

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----064016 150734Z /13  
R 141442Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1077

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 2957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PINT, PGOV, SW  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 155108

1. SUMMARY. CHARGE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD LUNCH JULY 12 WITH MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND TO DISCUSS HIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE US. (ALSO PRESENT WAS JOHAN LIND, MFA NUCLEAR EXPERT, WHO ACCOMPANIED LEIFLAND ON HIS NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.) AS MRS. SODER HAD TOLD US HERSELF AT THE AIRPORT UPON HER RETURN, LEIFLAND SAID SHE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE GRATIFIED AT THE RECEPTION SHE HAD IN THE US. LEIFLAND SAID THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON FOR MRS. SODER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WARMER OR MORE AGREEABLE, AND THE CLOSENESS OF VIEWS ON NEARLY ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS WAS NOTEWORTHY. AS FOR HIS OWN TALKS, LEIFLAND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT SCHEDULE ARRANGED FOR HIM BY EUR/NE AND SAID HIS MEETINGS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL. THE MAIN TOPIC OF OUR LUNCH WAS THE US-SWEDISH NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

2. REGARDING MRS. SODER'S VISIT, THE GOS WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE ARRANGEMENTS--NAMELY MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY, THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SENATE AND HOUSE  
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COMMITTEES, AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG--AND MRS. SODER WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF HER LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY AND HIS COLLEAGUES. WHILE SHE REGRETTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE CLUB OF ROME INVITATION FOR SEPTEMBER, SHE WAS GLAD TO HEAR HIM SAY THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY PLAN A NORDIC TOUR INCLUDING STOCKHOLM AS SOON AS TIME PERMITTED. SHE WAS ALSO GLAD THAT

AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD BE COMING TO SWEDEN, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS STILL NOT FIRM. MRS. SODER'S SUBSTANTIVE TALKS REVEALED THE CLOSENESS OF VIEWS WITH THE US ON MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, LEIFLAND SAID, AND THE VISIT AS A WHOLE HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL.

3. WITH REGARD TO HIS OWN TALKS THE WEEK OF JULY 3, LEIFLAND SAID THEY HAD BEEN OPEN AND EXTREMELY USEFUL, AND HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE HE SAW, INCLUDING HABIB, NYE, VEST, TODMAN, GELB, MOOSE, MAYNES, HOLBROOKE, WARNKE, AND THE OTHERS. (WHILE WE COULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON EVERY SUBJECT, LEIFLAND'S ACCOUNT JIBED CLOSELY WITH THE MEMCON CABLES WE HAVE RECEIVED, AND WE FOUND CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHOSE COURT THE BALL WAS IN ON EACH SUBJECT.)

4. NUCLEAR MATTERS WAS THE CARDINAL TOPIC ON LEIFLAND'S MIND, AND HIS TALK WITH NYE (STATE 160852) WAS OUR MAIN SUBJECT. THE MORNING OF OUR LUNCH LEIFLAND AND LIND HAD SPENT TWO FULL HOURS BRIEFING PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN, MRS. SODER, AND FALLDIN'S TOP AIDE GUNNARSSON (ENERGY MINISTER JOHANSSON WAS TIED UP) ON THEIR TWO-HOUR TALK WITH NYE. THE TWO "ACTION POSSIBILITIES" CITED IN REFTEL--A POSSIBLE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO FALLDIN, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RETURN OF SWEDISH NUCLEAR WASTE TO THE US FOR PERMANENT STORAGE--WERE A CLEAR FOCUS  
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OF CONCERN. LEIFLAND AND LIND PUT FORWARD THE IDEA--WHICH WAS NOT IN REFTEL AND CONCEIVABLY COULD HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED BY FALLDIN--THAT THE TWO "ACTION POSSIBILITIES" COULD BE MERGED, SO THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, IF ONE WAS SENT, COULD INCLUDE MENTION OF THE STORAGE OF SWEDISH WASTE IN THE US. WE NOTED THAT ALL OF THIS WAS IFFY, BUT PARTICULARLY THAT IF THE STORAGE OF FOREIGN WASTE IN THE US WAS AS SENSITIVE A POLICY MATTER AS WE IMAGINED RIGHT NOW, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT IT IN A PUTATIVE LETTER WITHOUT DELAYING THE LETTER CONSIDERABLY. THEY ACCEPTED THIS POINT.

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-----064072 150737Z /13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 2957

EXDIS

5. OBVIOUSLY THIS US-SWEDISH NUCLEAR ISSUE IS SO ENMESHED IN SWEDISH DOMESTIC POLITICS THAT THE MFA IS UNDER TIGHT WRAPS. LEIFLAND SPOKE PERSONALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY ABOUT THE POLITICAL PROBLEM, NOTING THAT FALLDIN--WHO HAS STRONG POSITIONS ON NUCLEAR HAZARDS--MIGHT WELL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT STORAGE IN THE US (ON GROUNDS THAT THIS IS MERELY EXPORTING THE DANGER TO ANOTHER COUNTRY), ALTHOUGH THE OTHER TWO PARTIES IN THE COALITION MIGHT FIND SUCH A US OFFER THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE DEAD-END THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT HAS GOT INTSELF IN. (SPEAKING PERSONALLY, LEIFLAND CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAD HEARD FROM OTHERS THAT THE FATE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT MIGHT WELL BE DECIDED ON THIS ISSUE OF THE US-SWEDISH NUCLEAR CONNECTION.) THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE WAS UNDERLINED BY THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFUSED HEADLINE ARTICLE IN THE LEADING DAILY, DAGENS NYHETER, ON JULY 13, GIVING A PESSIMISTIC ACCOUNT OF THE US-SWEDISH RELATIONSHIP BY EMPHASIZING CONTINUED US REFUSAL TO APPROVE SWEDISH PLANS AND HOPES TO SHIP SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TO FRANCE FOR REPROCESSING, DESPITE EXPLANATIONS OF THE SWEDISH PROBLEM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY MRS. SODER, LEIFLAND AND LIND. LEIFLAND AND LIND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN THEIR AND MRS. SODER'S PRESS STATEMENTS AFTER THE US TRIP, THEY HAD PUT THE BEST FACE ON THE MATTER AND TRIED TO BE OPTIMISTIC.

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RIGHT NOW, LEIFLAND DOES NOT SEEM VERY CLEAR ON HOW FALLDIN WILL PURSUE THE ISSUE. SWEDISH THINKING WAS NOW, AT LEAST, ON TWO TRACKS AFTER THE WASHINGTON VISIT, I.E., ON THE OPTION OF PERMANENT STORAGE SOMEWHERE OF UNREPROCESSED FUEL AS WELL AS ON THAT OF REPROCESSING ABROAD. LEIFLAND SAID THE GOS UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THAT THE BALL WAS IN THEIR COURT ON THIS NUCLEAR MATTER, AND HE WOULD BE BACK TO THE US SIDE ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION LATER THIS SUMMER.

6. COMMENT. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF US POLICY, WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELF TO BE DRAWN INTO INTRA-COALATION POLITICS, BUT MUST DO WHAT WE CAN, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF GLOBAL US POLICIES, TO HELP SWEDEN OUT OF ITS LEGITIMATE BIND CAUSED BY NEW US POLICIES AND BY SWEDISH NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS. LEIFLAND SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE USG IN GENERAL AND NYE IN PARTICULAR WERE WELL AWARE OF SWEDEN'S SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND WERE TRYING TO HELP; HE WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE IDEA OF A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER, AND HAD HOPES THAT RETURN OF UNREPROCESSED SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FOR STORAGE IN THE US MIGHT BE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. THE EMBASSY, LOOKING AT US-SWEDISH RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLDWIDE US NUCLEAR POLICY, ENDORSES THESE TWO IDEAS AND HOPES THEY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

PERRY

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## Message Attributes

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